

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 09930 142309Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2516

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9930

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KISSINGER, HENRY A., BR

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN TRIP

REF: STATE 266001

1. IN A CONVERSATION OF NOVEMBER 12 I HAD WITH SILVEIRA, HE ASKED WHETHER I HAD HAD ANY FURTHER WORD ON A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY. I REPLIED, AS INSTRUCTED, THAT I HAD HOPED TO HAVE, FOR THE MEETING WITH HIM, FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE LAST INFORMATION THE EMBASSY HAD HAD ON OCTOBER 20 BUT THAT I HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY NEW INFORMATION YET.

2. SILVEIRA TOLD ME, IN A PERFECTLY AMIABLE WAY, THAT HE COULD NOT KEEP GOING TO THE PRESIDENT TO ARRANGE DATES WITHOUT SOMETHING VERY FIRM IN HAND. HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD AND SYMPATHIZED WITH THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THE SECRETARY HAD HAD AND HAS, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY TO EXPLAIN THEM TO THE PRESIDENT, WHOSE ATTITUDE WAS THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING COMING UP THAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BRAZIL. I THANKED SILVEIRA FOR HIS UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENCE AND SAID I THOUGHT THAT HIS RELUCTANCE TO GO TO THE PRESIDENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WAS PERFECTLY NATURAL.

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3. THIS AFTERNOON, THE DCM TOOK A PHONE CALL FOR ME FROM SOUTO MAIOR, SILVEIRA'S CHIEF OF CABINET, WHO SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ASKED HIM TO FOLLOW UP ON THE NOVEMBER 12 CONVERSATION WITH THIS INFORMATION:

A. SILVEIRA DOES NOT HAVE ANY ENGAGEMENTS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY;

B. THERE IS AN OFFICIAL VISIT (BY THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER) SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT JANUARY 20.

C. SILVEIRA MUCH PREFERS THAT NO ANNOUNCEMENTS BE MADE UNTIL ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETE AND UNTIL CLOSE TO THE DATE OF THE VISIT.

D. SILVEIRA WAS READY TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC DATES WITH ME AT ANY TIME.

R. THE DCM TOLD SOUTO MAIOR THAT I WOULD BE PASSING THIS INFORMATION ALONG AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH SILVEIRA WHEN I HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER FROM WASHINGTON.

5. SILVEIRA HAS AN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL EVERY FRIDAY MORNING SO IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT SILVEIRA DID RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE HAS BEEN CHECKED OUT WITH HIM.

5. COMMENT: IF SILVEIRA DID IN FACT TALK TO GEISEL ABOUT THE VISIT, DESPITE ITS STILL UNDEFINED STATUS, HE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO BUTTRESS HIS POSITION, WHICH HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY VERY STRONG PERSONAL ATTACKS BY THE PRESS ARISING FROM THE BRAZILIAN VOTE IN ZIONISM AND THE QUICK ACTION ON ANGOLA. A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY WOULD BE A BOOST FOR SILVEIRA, AND HE CERTAINLY COULD USE ONE.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-A, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL09930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751143/aaaabmg1.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 266001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATIN AMERICAN TRIP
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, BR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA, ANTONIO F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006